ETF & Mutual Fund Rankings: Large Cap Blend Style

The Large Cap Blend style ranks first out of the twelve fund styles as detailed in our 4Q17 Style Ratings for ETFs and Mutual Funds report. Last quarter, the Large Cap Blend style ranked first as well. It gets our Attractive rating, which is based on an aggregation of ratings of 31 ETFs and 793 mutual funds in the Large Cap Blend style as of October 17, 2017. See a recap of our 3Q17 Style Ratings here.

Figures 1 and 2 show the five best and worst rated ETFs and mutual funds in the style. Not all Large Cap Blend style ETFs and mutual funds are created the same. The number of holdings varies widely (from 20 to 1388). This variation creates drastically different investment implications and, therefore, ratings.

Investors seeking exposure to the Large Cap Blend style should buy one of the Attractive-or-better rated ETFs or mutual funds from Figures 1 and 2.

Our Robo-Analyst technology empowers our unique ETF and mutual fund rating methodology, which leverages our rigorous analysis of each fund's holdings.[1] We think advisors and investors focused on prudent investment decisions should include analysis of fund holdings in their research process for ETFs and mutual funds.

Figure 1: ETFs with the Best & Worst Ratings – Top 5

	Allocation of ETF Holdings			
Ticker	**Attractive-or-better Stocks**	**Neutral Stocks**	**Unattractive-or-worse Stocks**	**Predictive Rating**
Best ETFs				
EPS	36%	46%	16%	Very Attractive
SPHQ	53%	22%	21%	Very Attractive
DIA	48%	38%	11%	Very Attractive
FTCS	41%	47%	12%	Very Attractive
DLN	35%	39%	24%	Very Attractive
Worst ETFs				
TOK	21%	32%	25%	Attractive
CSM	27%	40%	26%	Attractive
IBLN	17%	40%	40%	Attractive
PTLC	28%	41%	29%	Attractive
ADRD	16%	29%	32%	Neutral

* Best ETFs exclude ETFs with TNAs less than $100 million for inadequate liquidity.

Sources: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

State Street SPDR MSCI USA Strategic Factors ETF (QUS) is excluded from Figure 1 because its total net assets (TNA) are below $100 million and do not meet our liquidity minimums.

[1] Ernst & Young's recent white paper "Getting ROIC Right" proves the superiority of our holdings research and analytics.

Figure 2: Mutual Funds with the Best & Worst Ratings – Top 5

	Allocation of Mutual Fund Holdings			
Ticker	**Attractive-or-better Stocks**	**Neutral Stocks**	**Unattractive-or-worse Stocks**	**Predictive Rating**
Best Mutual Funds				
YAFIX	44%	14%	2%	Very Attractive
YAFFX	44%	14%	2%	Very Attractive
WSEFX	34%	50%	13%	Very Attractive
YCGEX	43%	29%	11%	Very Attractive
SNAEX	41%	39%	17%	Very Attractive
Worst Mutual Funds				
BLPIX	11%	16%	11%	Very Unattractive
RYDAX	39%	30%	9%	Very Unattractive
BLPSX	11%	16%	11%	Very Unattractive
ABRUX	39%	35%	18%	Very Unattractive
ABRFX	39%	35%	18%	Very Unattractive

* Best mutual funds exclude funds with TNAs less than $100 million for inadequate liquidity.

Sources: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

Nuveen Concentrated Core Fund (NCARX, NCAFX, NCAEX) is excluded from Figure 2 because its total net assets (TNA) are below $100 million and do not meet our liquidity minimums.

WisdomTree U.S. Earnings 500 Fund (EPS) is the top-rated Large Cap Blend ETF and AMG Yacktman Focused Fund (YAFIX) is the top-rated Large Cap Blend mutual fund. Both earn a Very Attractive rating.

Builders Developed Market 100 ADR Index Fund (ADRD) is the worst rated Large Cap Blend ETF and AmericaFirst Tactical Alpha Fund (ABRFX) is the worst rated Large Cap Blend mutual fund. ADRD earns a Neutral rating and ABRFX earns a Very Unattractive rating.

The Danger Within

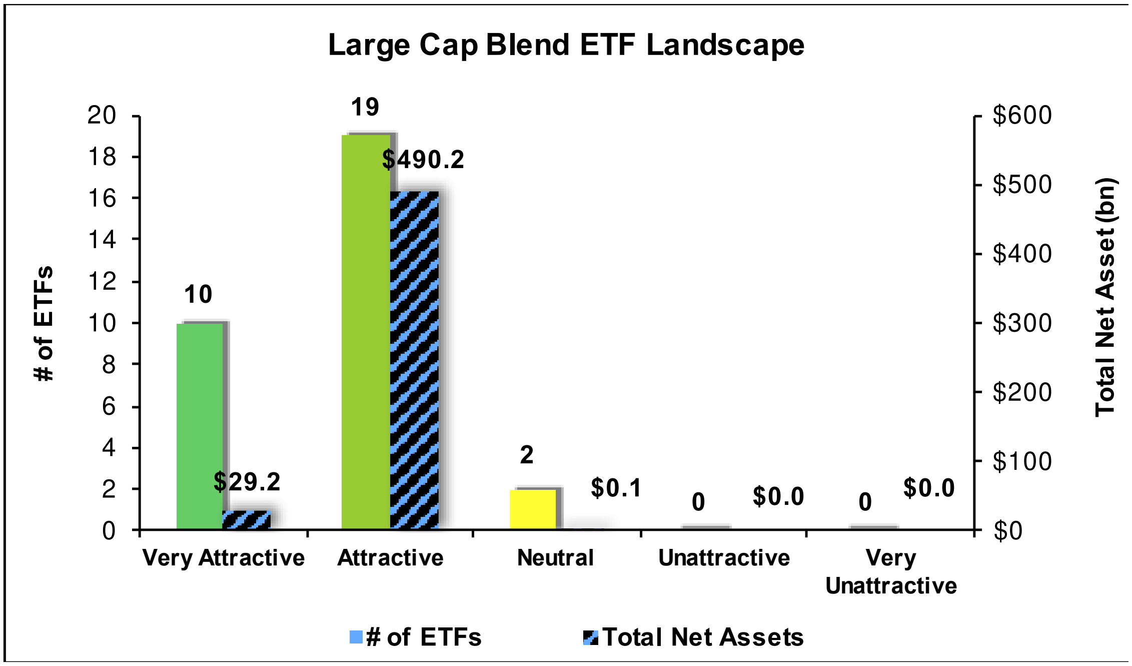
Buying a fund without analyzing its holdings is like buying a stock without analyzing its business and finances. Put another way, research on fund holdings is necessary due diligence because a fund's performance is only as good as its holdings' performance. Don't just take our word for it, see what Barron's says on this matter.

PERFORMANCE OF HOLDINGs = PERFORMANCE OF FUND

Analyzing each holding within funds is no small task. Our Robo-Analyst technology enables us to perform this diligence with scale and provide the research needed to fulfill the fiduciary duty of care. More of the biggest names in the financial industry (see At BlackRock, Machines Are Rising Over Managers to Pick Stocks) are now embracing technology to leverage machines in the investment research process. Technology may be the only solution to the dual mandate for research: cut costs and fulfill the fiduciary duty of care. Investors, clients, advisors and analysts deserve the latest in technology to get the diligence required to make prudent investment decisions.

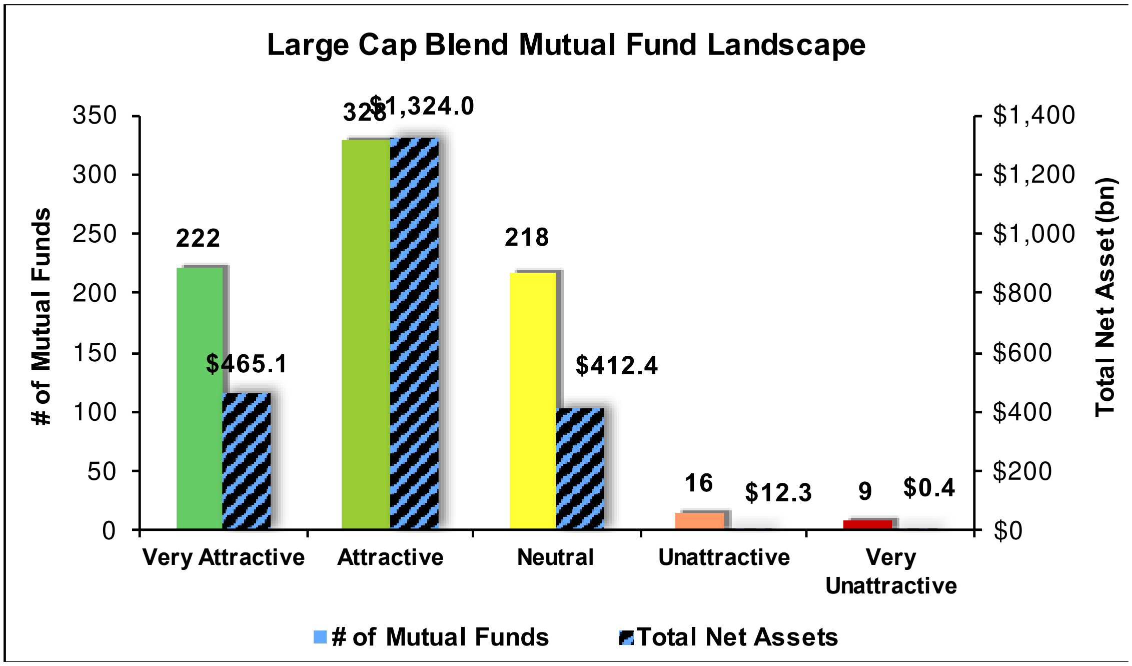
Figures 3 and 4 show the rating landscape of all Large Cap Blend ETFs and mutual funds.

Figure 3: Separating the Best ETFs from the Worst Funds



Sources: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

Figure 4: Separating the Best Mutual Funds from the Worst Funds



Sources: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

This article originally published on [October 18, 2017](#).

Disclosure: David Trainer, Kyle Guske II, and Kenneth James receive no compensation to write about any specific stock, style, or theme.

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New Constructs leverages the latest in machine learning to analyze structured and unstructured financial data with unrivaled speed and accuracy. The firm's forensic accounting experts work alongside engineers to develop proprietary NLP libraries and financial models. Our investment ratings are based on the best fundamental data in the business for stocks, ETFs and mutual funds. Clients include many of the top hedge funds, mutual funds and wealth management firms. David Trainer, the firm's CEO, is regularly featured in the media as a thought leader on the fiduciary duty of care, earnings quality, valuation and investment strategy.

To fulfill the Duty of Care, research should be:

1. **Comprehensive** - All relevant publicly-available (e.g. 10-Ks and 10-Qs) information has been diligently reviewed, including footnotes and the management discussion & analysis (MD&A).
2. **Un-conflicted** - Clients deserve unbiased research.
3. **Transparent** - Advisors should be able to show how the analysis was performed and the data behind it.
4. **Relevant** - Empirical evidence must provide tangible, quantifiable correlation to stock, ETF or mutual fund performance.

Value Investing 2.0: Diligence Matters: Technology is Key to Value Investing With Scale

Accounting data is only the beginning of fundamental research. It must be translated into economic earnings to truly understand profitability and valuation. This translation requires deep analysis of footnotes and the MD&A, a process that our robo-analyst technology empowers us to perform for thousands of stocks, ETFs and mutual funds.

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